

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I have been honored to serve as acting president since being appointed to the position in July. My goal for the transition is to steward the university with a renewed commitment to our students, our core values, and our broader university mission.

This month we officially mark the start of a new academic year, with the countless possibilities that new beginnings present. I had the pleasure of participating in many Welcome Week activities and meeting a good number of our amazing freshmen. Their special energy invigorates us all at the beginning of the new term.

Earlier this month, I appointed long-time faculty member and administrator Professor Dale Billingsley as interim Provost, the position that I occupied prior to my appointment as acting president. In addition to ensuring the smooth functioning of our academic operations, Dr. Billingsley's primary strategic responsibility will be to continue the implementation of the 21st Century Initiative: Powering the 2020 Plan. I am very glad to have his experience and steady, thoughtful leadership for this critically important work.

This semester brings the opening of two new residence halls on campus, and we already have begun clearing the way for a new classroom building to be constructed on the Crawford Gym site as well as scheduled a ground breaking for the Student Activities Center expansion.

As we move forward in the coming months, my priority will be to spend more time walking campus interacting with our students, as well as meeting in smaller groups with faculty and staff. I believe that great ideas and creative solutions result from this kind of meaningful dialogue, and I look forward to a very productive and enjoyable year.

Neville Pinto

Acting President, University of Louisville



Neville Pinto greets families on move-in day.



Students arrive on campus for 2016 Welcome Week.

Size, diversity, preparedness hallmarks of incoming class

Nearly 2,800 full-time, first-time students began their journey toward a degree this month. This new class enters as one of the largest, most diverse and most prepared in UofL history. Executive Director of Admissions Jenny Sawyer remarked on the diversity of the students, saying "I checked our numbers going back to 1988, and I feel pretty confident that this year represents our highest numbers for African American and Hispanic/Latino students."

Preliminary numbers on the first-year students

13.5 percent African American

4.1 percent Hispanic/Latino

Nearly **50 percent** already have some college credits

465 are honor students

3.6 average high school grade point average

25.5 average ACT score, well above the 2015 national average of 21 and Kentucky average of 20

UofL receives NIH grant to fund Alcohol Research Center

UofL is now home to one of only 20 centers in the nation designated as a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Alcohol Research Center. The National Institutes of Health recently awarded UofL a grant of nearly \$8 million to set up the center, which will be the only one in the country to focus its studies on how dietary nutrition and alcohol interact.

“This funding will allow us to look at the problems that alcohol abuse causes, as well as the potential benefits of alcohol,” said Craig McClain, associate vice president for translational research and associate vice president for health affairs/research. “Our focus on dietary nutrition and abuse is unique.”

McClain will head a research team that spans 13 departments at UofL and six other universities. The team will focus on four initial projects examining how alcohol interacts with unsaturated fat and probiotics in the gut and liver, how dietary intervention could help repair acute lung injury caused by chronic alcohol use, and the effect of alcohol use by pregnant women.



Dr. Craig McClain announces the opening of the latest NIAAA Alcohol Research Center at UofL July 18th.



Students in class at the Brandeis School of Law.

New program helps law students earn degree a year early

Law students at UofL now have the option of earning a law degree in six years, rather than the traditional seven, with the addition of the 3+3 Accelerated Law Program.

The 3+3 program allows eligible undergraduates to count their senior year of college as their first year of law school, giving them the ability to earn their degree early and save at least \$20,000 in law school tuition.

The Brandeis School of Law partnered with the College of Arts and Sciences on the program, which allows A&S undergraduates majoring in criminal justice, history, and women’s and gender studies to apply for the program and for admission into Brandeis during their junior year provided they meet the minimum GPA and LSAT score requirements.

The collaboration shows how interdisciplinary teamwork and innovative solutions can help students graduate quickly and with less debt.



New housing, dining choices on campus

As students returned to UofL for the fall 2016 semester, they found new options for living, dining, and studying.

Among the campus changes are two new UofL-affiliated residence halls, The Nine and University Pointe, which will house about 800 students. A new partnership with Aramark will bring a variety of new dining options to campus this year.

The Student Activities Center is in the middle of a \$40 million renovation, and a groundbreaking was scheduled this month on a 32,000 square foot addition that will add meeting space and lounge space. Additionally, construction has begun on a new academic building slated to open in 2018. The academic building will replace Crawford Gym. The gym’s legacy was honored in a ceremony this summer. To watch a video of the celebration, visit <http://uoflnews.com/post/uofltoday/fans-bid-farewell-to-crawford-gym/>.

In other academic updates, faculty will be able to hone their teaching skills at the new Technology Innovation and Learning Lab at Ekstrom Library. The lab will allow faculty to test-drive new technology and teaching methods designed to better engage students.



Renderings of the SAC renovation and addition.

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